



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus — The primary focus on the Wetland Reserve Program in Delaware is restoring the many acres of prior converted cropland (PC), farmed wetlands, and woodland that has been effectively drained by extensive ditch systems. The program's priority is to fund the projects where the wetlands are the most degraded. The first priority is prior converted cropland because these areas have lost both hydrology and the plant community.

Delaware Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Through WRP, Delaware NRCS restores wetlands that have been significantly degraded or impacted because of drainage or agricultural usage. Delaware has several hundred miles of drainage ditches that have removed the hydrology from historic wetlands. Many of these areas were cleared for agricultural production, while some remained in woodland. The areas are effectively restored by removing the effect of the ditches and planting the sites if the plant community needs to be restored.

Accomplishments

Delaware completed restoration on two projects in 2001. The first project was 45 acres of woods that had been drained on a property that is bordered by wooded wetlands owned by Delaware Wild Lands. Ditch plugs were utilized to restore the hydrology. The second sight was a 25 acre Delmarva Bay that had been pastured for years. The cattle were removed, microtopography was reestablished on the site, and a warm season grass buffer was established.

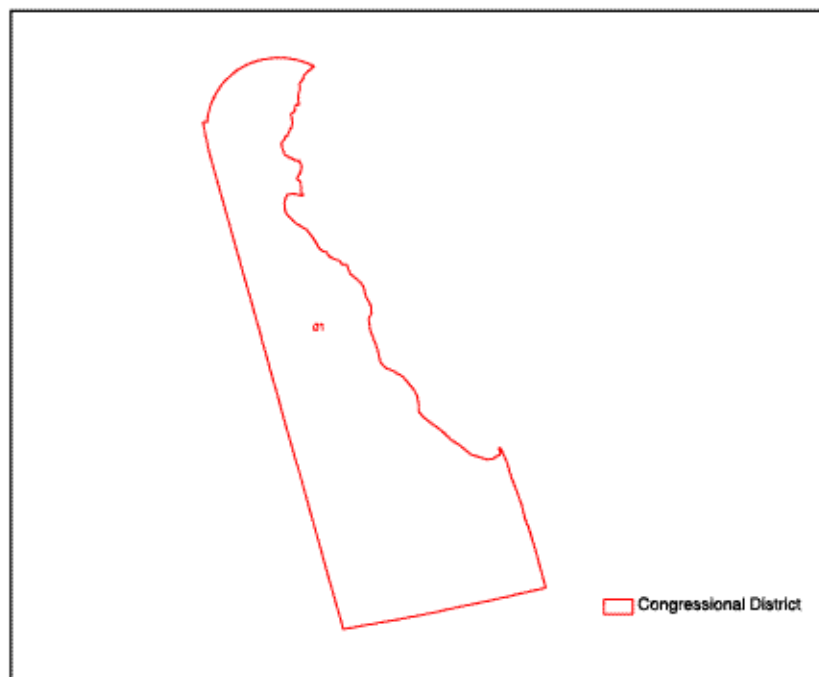
Program Benefits

The WRP program in Delaware provides water quality improvements, increased wildlife habitat, especially waterfowl habitat, increased hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, and open space preservation.

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Delaware Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Delaware Dollars and Contracts

Fiscal Year 2001

Congressional Districts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$65,000	2

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